



# Saskatchewan College of Psychologists

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## Membership Advisory

### Use of Title, Title Format and Abbreviation

The College requires that all members list on all professional documents their full name, only the highest degree under which they have been licensed, and the licensure title "Registered Psychologist" or "Registered Doctoral Psychologist", with the disclaimers "Non-practicing" or "Provisional" as appropriate. Examples of documents in which this would be necessary include letters, reports, and business cards. Members may also wish to include their registration number on legal documents. The goal of title use is to provide clear information to the public about a member's licensure qualifications.

An example of the form of title use for a member registered as a Doctoral level psychologist is:

***Pat Smith, Ed.D.  
Registered Doctoral Psychologist***

An example of the form of title use for a member registered as a Master's level psychologist is:

***Leslie Smith, M.A.  
Registered Psychologist***

There may be instances in which a member would prefer to use an abbreviated form of the title such as clinic notes or hospital charts. An example of the recommended abbreviated form of the title for a member registered as a Master's level psychologist is:

***Kim Smith, M.Ed., R. Psych.***

An example of the recommended abbreviated form of the title for a member registered as a Doctoral level psychologist is:

***Chris Smith, Ph.D., R. D. Psych.***

In general, it is recommended that the abbreviated form of the title would only be used in documents which are less likely to be read by the general public, and where it would be easy to reference the full title of the psychologist in other documentation. It is further recommended that if a member works for an agency that has a list of approved abbreviations, the member should submit the abbreviation to the agency. If a member is in doubt about the sufficiency of the abbreviated title, the full title should be used.

Members of the College who obtain additional certification from fraternal organizations or interest groups must not list that certification with their licensure title unless it has been vetted and approved by the Executive Council of the College. Additional credentials may be confusing to the public, and it could be assumed that because they appear along with the licensure title that they have been vetted by the College and a higher level of qualification has been awarded. An example of how one's memberships with

fraternal organizations or memberships may be indicated is as follows:

***Chris Smith, Ph.D.,  
Registered Doctoral Psychologist***

*Member:*

***-Canadian Psychological Association  
-The Canadian Counselling Association***

The license to practice provided by the College is a general license. It is not intended to convey licensure or endorsement of a member by the College in a specific area of practice. The legislation does not allow for specialty titles such as “Clinical Child Psychologist”. Such titles may be confusing, open to misunderstanding, and viewed as indicating that a higher level of specialty licensure has been awarded. This is not to say that one cannot list their areas of practice in their advertisements or communications. For example, it would be acceptable to list one’s areas of practice as follows:

***Chris Smith, Ph.D.,  
Registered Doctoral Psychologist***

***Practicing in the areas of:  
-Clinical Neuropsychology  
-Physical Rehabilitation ...***

If an employer wishes to identify that a member is part of a specific work unit or practices in a specific area of practice it is important that the member is clear with their employer about the prohibition against the use of specialty titles such as “*Early Childhood Psychologist*”. An appropriate listing might be as follows:

***Chris Smith, Ph.D.,  
Registered Doctoral Psychologist  
Early Childhood Psychology***